



JAPANESE AND PERSIAN STUDENTS COOK

All the young men and women students at Blackburn college work their way to education. The plan is proving successful

BY ROBERT H. MOULTON

The boy is certainly making good. His grades are up in the thirties. He is an excellent cook, a first-class laundryman, and can plan more acres of land in a day than any other boy in college.

Rather a remarkable statement for a college president to make concerning a college student, yet hardly more remarkable than the institution which the student is attending, Blackburn college at Carlinville, Ill.

Blackburn, as a matter of fact, occupies a position unique among institutions of learning in this country. No other college, perhaps, is conducted along exactly the same lines. Its aim is to train young men to be not only scientists, but practical farmers, incalculating in them at the same time a love of the soil, and to make of girls and young women practical housewives, who will be able to cook and sew, and to take care of a home. And this is where the unique feature comes in. It is conducted upon a plan of self-help, whereby young men and women of the most limited means are afforded an opportunity to avail themselves of a standard college education.

The plan has been tried only a year, but during this period it has proved so successful, literally knocking the high cost of living all to pieces, that the great problem next fall will be what to do with the students.

The charges for the year at Blackburn have been placed at \$100, and three hours' work per day at some sort of manual labor. This pays for a furnished room with steam heat and electric light, board and tuition.

The first thing one is likely to say on hearing this is, "It's too cheap; it can't be done." That was exactly what the college trustees said when, after calling Dr. William M. Hudson to the presidency, they listened to his revolutionary scheme for reorganizing Blackburn.

But Doctor Hudson had some convincing figures out of his past experience. He was optimistic and persistent. So finally the trustees agreed they might as well try it for a year. "It may blow us up," they said, "but better that than rotting down. At any rate, an explosion will attract more attention."

It was hearing the noon hour when I reached the little group of college buildings nestling in a grove of fine old elm and oak trees on the outskirts of Carlinville, and the president suggested that we would better go down and see the girls getting dinner.

Here was something new. In the present age, when the average college girl spends a goodly portion of her time in social amusements and athletics, the idea of students preparing their own meals was decidedly novel. Yet there they were, a dozen of them, in school dresses covered with long white aprons, busily engaged in preparing a menu which had been written on a blackboard in the kitchen—a kitchen, by the way, as immaculate as the most exacting housewife could desire.

This combination of earning and learning is one of the unique features of Doctor Hudson's plan. The young women get the theory of domestic science in the classroom and then put it into practice in the kitchen. They do all the cooking, with the exception of a certain amount of help from some of the young men students. That they also do it scientifically and well was attested by the meal that followed a little later. This meal consisted of cream of tomato soup, roast beef, baked potatoes, creamed celery, bread and butter, tapioca and cake, and there was an abundance of each. I made bold to ask if dinners like that were served every day.

"Certainly," replied Doctor Hudson. "It's not a victor's menu by any means. We didn't know you were coming, and if we had we would have gone along just the same."

"And the cost?" I inquired.

For answer Doctor Hudson beckoned to Miss Sparks, the capable head of the domestic science department, who not only teaches the subject, but plans the various meals and figures down the cost to a quarter of a cent, not even omitting such small things as the flour in the gravy and the salt in the potatoes, and repeated my query.

"The cost per capita for the materials," said Miss Sparks, "was a fraction under eight cents." By way of making the lesson more impressive, she added that the only other expense, since the students do all the cooking and serving, was for the fuel consumed in the range, an amount so small that it could hardly be figured out as so much per



WORK AND INSTRUCTION COMBINED

equity. Breakfast and supper usually cost less than the dinners, the average for the three meals per day being 21 cents.

Having no help to pay or to feed, important items in figuring up the cost of serving food in most colleges, has played an important part in this economical showing. The self-help plan not only runs down expenses, but gives the young women such a practical course in domestic science—part of the laboratory work is to prepare each week four new dishes in sufficient quantities to feed all the people in the dining hall; that they will be benefited by it all their lives. They not only study domestic science, but do all of the work in their own rooms, the laundry work, etc., and at the end of four years they will come out able, and it is expected willing, to do anything and solve any problem that is likely to confront a woman in the home.

The president led the way to a window from which was visible a fine rolling stretch of farmland, part of which was ready for the plow. This is the college farm, consisting of 80 acres. Next fall the students will be fed from the product of that farm. Some of it, of course, will be fed to the cows, but they will produce milk for the college commons; some of it will be fed to the pigs, but they will be growing into meat all the time; and some of it will go directly to the kitchen. In this way the young men supplement the work of the young women. They produce what is cooked, and are learning to be practical as well as theoretical farmers.

All of the farm buildings are put up by the students under the direction of the farm superintendent. They recently completed a poultry house which is a model of its kind. A huge barn and silo are soon to be started. As Doctor Hudson remarked, those boys are likely to be much better farmers than their fathers.

Another unique feature at Blackburn is that the students know as little of the cost of high living as they do of the high cost of living. The college puts a ban on smoking, drinking, and the other evils commonly found in the youth world. A boy must keep himself clean, if he belongs to the Blackburn college community.

Two particularly interesting students are foreigners, a bright-eyed little Jap and a curly-haired Persian. The Japanese student came to America to get an education, believing that all one needs to do is just to come here and after that everything is free. But he was disappointed in his dreams. He had planned to spend three years here and then go home to found a little school on the fundamental principles of Christianity. A friend in Japan had said that he would furnish the money as soon as the young man finished his education. So he tried a large state university. They were very sorry, but they had so many American boys, and then he knew nothing about our language or customs. They didn't see how they could do anything for him. Then he went to a large endowed university, and the story was the same. Finally he heard of Blackburn and went there. The president asked him what he could do, and he said he believed he could cook. So he was put in the kitchen and he works there three hours a day, assisting the young women.

The other boy came all the way from Persia, with the same exalted notion of opportunity in America. He had received a little training in a hospital, but he wanted to be a real doctor and go home to his people as a medical missionary. He spent 14 months looking for a college that he could afford. A Persian doctor in Chicago directed him to Blackburn and he went right along and has made a fine record. He is the head of the sweeping force.

The students at Blackburn all work—three hours a day. All pay the same and work the same. It is a communism. They don't pay so much per hour as most colleges do, but each stu-

dent works the same time and pays the same amount. They don't pay him; he pays the college. He does not work for himself, but for the college. They believe, at Blackburn, that after young men and young women have spent four years working for the college, they will be better men for citizenship than if they had spent those years making for themselves.

"There is a lot more to our plan," said Doctor Hudson, "than just helping young people to get through college who would not otherwise get there on account of the expense, but they are all-side issues. That is our main object. We are looking out for the young men and the young women who are willing enough to work and hungry enough for an education to do almost anything to get it, if they only knew how to set about it. It is not our purpose to help any student who ought to help himself, but simply to provide the means whereby he may secure an education when otherwise it would be impossible."

"We are especially interested in the young women. It's a stiff proposition for a young man to go away from home to get his living and his education at the same time, but it's almost impossible for his sister. That is why we are providing for the girls too."

While the fixed charge at Blackburn is \$100, that, of course, does not provide for everything. It covers the college a hundred more for each student, even after food has been provided. This is made up out of the endowment and the help that is received from time to time from generous friends of the cause.

ROYAL MATRIMONIAL FIELD.

Britain's royal house will be at a loss for royal families to marry into when this war is concluded. German royalties, even if the Hohenzollerns are left on the throne, can never again marry or be given in marriage with kings or queens, princesses or princesses of Britain's royal family. Royal families of Germany and of countries sympathetic with Germany are excluded from the list of candidates for wedlock with British royalties. Russia's state church is on brotherly terms with the Church of England. Religious difference would not absolutely forbid a Russo-British royal marriage. Europe is not the home of many royal houses that are once Protestant and pro-British. Wars of the future royal marriages in Britain is more interesting than important. British peoples are now concerned with more awful and momentous issues than those related to the intermarriage of royalties. British princes and princesses for all time to come will have to look elsewhere than Germany for brides and bridegrooms.—Toussaint Telegram.

ONE RESULT OF THE WAR.

A delightful lady of a little town in Nebraska was discovered one morning in the act of killing a chicken.

"Why, Mrs. Brown, I thought that you were afraid to kill a chicken," said a neighbor in surprise.

"Yes, dearie, I'd useter be, but since the war broke out I've done it right smart."

"I don't understand you; what does the war have to do with it?"

"Well, you see, in this way. I useter think that bloodshed was an awful thing, but since I've been readin' about all them men-killin's in Europe I just get a rooster by the feet, lay his head on the block and say to myself, 'Now, Sarah, 'tain't near so bad as killin' a man. Where's your nerve?' And then I just shut my eyes and whack!"—Youth's Companion.

ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN.

St. Louis has a policewoman who receives a salary of \$65 per month.

In the Philippine islands women and girls are employed as road workers.

The first requirement of a girl seeking work through the Young Women's Christian association in Los Angeles is that she wear big shoes. It being claimed that tight shoes make a bad temper.

Probably the only woman professional golf player in the world is Mrs. Gourley Dunn Webb, the noted English player, who has come to the United States on account of the war.

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SOAP IS STRONGLY ALKALINE and constant use will burn out the scalp. Cleanse the scalp by shampooing with "La Creole" Hair Dressing, which darkens, in the natural way, those ugly, grizzly hairs. Price \$1.00.—Adv.

Contented Kicker.

"How are you going to spend the summer?"

"I hope I'll be able to spend the rest of it as I spent the first part—looking about odd waves."

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Free sample each by mail with Book Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Bill, the Monopolist.

A socialistic writer was talking in Boston about the dye trust recently formed in Germany.

"It includes all the German dye firms," he said. "Talk about a monopoly! Why, it's as bad as Bill Smith."

"Bill Smith went off to the shore for a week or two, and on his return took Sam Jones to task severely."

"Look here, Sam," he said, "I understand that while I was off at the shore you took advantage of my absence to hang around Mabel Green almost every night."

"No, Bill," said Sam. "You're mistaken. It's her sister, Sallie Green, that I've been hangin' round."

"Well," said Bill, "that makes no difference. I got my eye on both them girls."

Obligation.

"Are you going to make any speeches during the campaign?"

"I'll have to make some," replied Senator Sorghum. "The eloquent silence has become the exclusive privilege of supreme leadership."

Mean Reflection.

Little Boy (crawling aloud): "And David said in his haste, all men are liars." Says father, why didn't he mention women also?

"He didn't consider it necessary, my son."

A most liberal isn't fit for anything.

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Think It Over.

"I don't think much of Flubdub as a candidate. All you can say of him is that he has made no enemies."

"Well, that isn't a bad platform, is it, which to go through life?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WOMAN'S CROWNING GLORY is her hair. If yours is streaked with ugly, grizzly, gray hairs, use "La Creole" Hair Dressing and change it to the natural way. Price \$1.00.—Adv.

What Worried Johnny.

"This war is making everything more expensive," complained father, as he saw by the paper that even rubber was going up."

"That's nothing in my young life," said little Johnny. "The only time I worried was when it's going down."

The Difference.

Bishop Naphtali Limerick was talking to Helen about golfers.

"A Sunday golfer," he said, "rang the bell at a nurse Sunday morning and asked to leave her golf sticks there during the service."

"I can't hardly let you do that," said the minister.

"But," the Sunday golfer objected, "you've got a sign on the church porch to the effect that golfers can leave their machines at the nurse during service, haven't you?"

"Yes, indeed, I have," the minister answered. "You can ride to church on a bicycle, you know, but you can't get a golf stick—unless you happen to be a witch."

Janie's Way.

The young man was in love. He had declared his passion to the young lady and she had passed him along to father. Father listened to his tale patiently.

"It's all right so far as I am concerned," the old gentleman said. "But I am afraid that Janie will not marry you."

"Oh, don't say that," the young man pleaded. "This she has said so."

"No," said the old gentleman, "but from what I know of Janie, if she would, she'd have taken you without referring you to me!"—New York Times.

Necessity is a good school.



A New Use For This Word

The New Post Toasties are truly entitled to the word "delicious."

They're distinguished by the tiny bubbles found on each flake and they carry the full, rich flavour of choice, white Indian corn—not found in corn flakes of the past.

And unlike common corn flakes, they are not "chaffy" in the package and don't grow mushy in milk or cream.

Note carefully the tiny bubbles—then try a handful dry to test the flavour. In comparison, other corn flakes are as "chaffy."

New Post Toasties

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